

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:DWYROUGH:MDK
APPROVED BY ARA - WILLIAM H. LUERS
S/AB - AMBASSADOR BUNKER
S/AB - AMBASSADOR LINOWITZ
S/S:SESTEINER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

USDEL GRENADA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS, FOR AMBASSADOR ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, PN

SUBJECT: PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS

1. THE PANAMA CANALNEGOTIATIONS RECESSED TODAYSO THAT THE
PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATORS MIGHT RETURNTO PANAMA FOR CONSUL-
TATION. BEFORE THE RECESS THEY PRESENTED A RATHER EMOTION-
AL STATEMENT OF CONCERNS AND THEN DELIVERED TO US A
PAPER WITH SOME SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS DEALING WITH THE
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PROBLEMS OF BOARD MEMBERSHIP AND DIRECTION OF THE ENTITY
TO OPERATE THE CANAL AND WITH THE STATUS AND PRIVILEGES
OF THE U.S. EMPLOYEES OF THE CANAL COMPANY. THESE
ARE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE WE HAD EARLIER PROPOSED BUT WE
BELIEVE THEY ARE MANAGEABLE AND WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO
FIND A SUITABLE MIDDLE GROUND.

THE MASSIVE PROBLEM WHICH STILL REMAINS UNRESOLVED IS THAT OF THE ECONOMIC ARRANGEMENTS. PANAMA CONTINUES TO THINK IN EXCESSIVE TERMS AND WE WILL HAVE TO SEE IF SOME WAY CAN BE FOUND TO COMBINE A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE ANNUAL PAYMENT PROVISION IN THE TREATY ITSELF WITH A SEPARATE BUT PROBABLY CONTEMPORANEOUS ARRANGEMENT FOR AN ECONOMIC AID PACKAGE INVOLVING THE U.S., INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND PROBABLY OTHER SOURCES. WE HAVE NOT YET BEGUN TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM AND IT WILL HAVE TO AWAIT THE

ARRIVAL OF A NEW ECONOMIC TEAM FROM PANAMA FOR DISCUSSIONS OF THIS MATTER.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN:
BEGIN TEXT: THE NEGOTIATIONS ON A NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATY WERE RECESSED FOLLOWING THE SESSION ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON IN ORDER THAT THE PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATORS COULD RETURN TO PANAMA TO CONSULT WITH MEMBERS OF THEIR GOVERNMENT. DURING THE RECESS THE UNITED STATES NEGOTIATORS WILL BE CONSULTING WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS HERE.

FOLLOWING THE RECESS THE TALKS WILL BE RESUMED AT A DATE TO BE DETERMINED LATER. END TEXT.

3. ABOVE IS PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION OF POSTS AND USDEL GRENADA. IF ISSUE RAISED BY HOST COUNTRIES OR AT OASGA, YOU MAY CONFIRM THAT PANAMANIAN DELEGATION RETURNED FOR CONSULTATIONS. ADVISE DEPARTMENT AND REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS FOR REPLYING TO HOST COUNTRY INQUIRIES OR
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HANDLING OF ISSUE AT OASGA.

4. FOR PANAMA: PLEASE REPORT PROMPTLY SHOULD TORRIJOS MAKE ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON MATTERS BEARING ON NEGOTIATIONS.

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